

**DOI Watercraft Safety Working Group
Conference Call Summary Minutes -- October 6, 2004**

In Attendance:

Anne Sittauer, Chair, FWS
Gary Hill, USGS
Ed Perez, NPS
Ed Wickersham, FWS
Jake Schlapher, BLM Absent
Jeff Petereson, BOR Absent

Anne convened the conference call at 10:05 A.M.

Bureau Updates:

USGS: Gary Hill, advised the group that the Airboat Module was essentially completed. He is going to meet with some of his key airboat instructors this week and go over the module one more time. The Module is presently at 80 pages. Gary is having problems keeping the training time at two days, and believes it may need to be three days.

Gary will put the module including the manual and PP presentation on a disc and get it out to the group for final review within the next two weeks. Gary asked that as the group reviews the module to carefully critique the time and information in the various sections, e.g. pre-float inspection and maintenance, launching and loading, docking and beaching and shallow and deep water ops.

NPS: Ed Perez, said he was involved in an MOICC in the Gulf Islands. It was very informative and worthwhile from his perspective. He also advised the group that he had some success obtaining funds for the watercraft training program. Otherwise he continues to work on getting his instructor and operator data bases in order and establish communications with his cadre of instructors within the NPS.

BOR: Jeff Peterson conducted a joint Moving Water Module with the FWS on the Snake River. BOR trained five instructors during that training and Jeff thought it came off very well.

He is working on gaining dedicated funding for the watercraft training program and feels that Linda Rowley will help him with that. Jeff is also working on getting his databases for instructors and operators up to date. He feels that training is going well throughout BOR with the one possible exception being their Upper Colorado Region. Jeff reported that the MOCC instructors in that area are utilizing New Mexico state instructors for much of the training. He is unsure if those state instructors are MOICC certified. However he will be checking on that issue.

BLM: Jake Schlapfer reports that training is going well in Alaska. They conducted several courses around the state this last year some in cooperation with FWS. Jake said that they will need to conduct an MOICC course this next year because they have or are going to lose several of their instructors through natural attrition and they of course must be replaced.

Jake feels that the Non-Motorized Module is in final form and that the group should review it at the next formal Working Group meeting for final approval. This should be an agenda item for that meeting.

FWS: Anne Sittauer reports that FWS had another successful year of MOCC training that was very successful. Anne advised the group that the focus for FWS is formalizing position descriptions for the National and regional Coordinator positions within the FWS Watercraft Safety Work Group.

Anne also advised the group that there was one accident associated with a capsizing demonstration while conducting an Open Water Module. Anne will put that on the agenda for our next formal meeting.

General Discussion: The group decided on the next conference call for Nov. 15th, 12:00 Noon EST. The next formal meeting date was set for Minneapolis, MN on Dec. 6 and 7, 2004. The meeting will be 9:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. on the 6th and finish by noon on the 7th.

Anne will provide the details for both the conference call and the meeting in advance of both.

The call adjourned at 1:00 P.M. CDT.

ACTION ITEMS:

- Gary will send out disc of Airboat Module by 10/18
- Anne will contact Mary Parkinson for the Abstract of the Accident Investigation of vessels using towing equipment.
- Jeff will check on the status of the state instructors that are being used by BOR for MOCC training in the Upper Colorado Region.
- Anne will provide everyone with the details for the next conference call and meeting
- It is each member's responsibility to please let Anne know as soon as possible if you have a conflict with either of the above dates.